

Video 1

Dance Ban **Discussion Questions**

1. Why might the decades-old law against outdoor dancing in Pinal County have been passed in the first place?

2. Why did Spencer Bell choose the restaurant business over some other kind of small business?

3. Do you think Pinal County's anti-dancing ordinance is constitutional? Explain.

4. The anti-dancing ordinance has been on the books for sixty years. Is the age of the ordinance relevant? Why/why not?

5. The neighbor in the video who originally opposed San Tan Flat suggested that someone might be trying to use county regulations to bankrupt the restaurant. Why would anyone want to do that?

6. Do you think the real issue concerning San Tan Flat is dancing or noise? Review the video to find evidence to support your answer.

7. If the neighbors were opposed to the noise coming from San Tan Flat, why would the county ban outdoor dancing instead of requiring the restaurant to turn down the volume?

8. The story of San Tan Flat has drawn national attention. Why do you think that is the case?

9. Are people and businesses free to use their property in any way they see fit? What kinds of restrictions on owners' rights, if any, are justified?

10. Is it a violation of people's rights to subject them to loud noises? Where do we draw the line between one person's rights and another's?

Note: Since the production of this video, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors ruling that San Tan Flat was operating an illegal dance hall has been overturned by a judge.

Video 2

National City **Discussion Questions**

1. How are projects such as schools and roads fundamentally different from the condominium development highlighted in this video?
- ② 2. What, according to some in the video, is eminent domain "abuse" as opposed to simply "eminent domain"?
3. If eminent domain could not be used for private development projects, how would a developer acquire the desired properties?
- ④ 4. The mayor of National City suggests that the city government is getting a "bad rap" over this case. What do you think he means?
5. What if most property owners are willing to sell but there are some holdouts? Is it fair for a few owners to block a new development? Explain.
- ⑥ 6. The city claims that economic development is for the good of the community. What if it benefits some people but hurts others?
7. What segment of society would have the greatest likelihood of getting local governments to use eminent domain in a way that serves their own private interests? How could they try to accomplish this?
- ⑧ 8. What—if anything—would prevent politicians from using eminent domain to take property in the name of economic development in exchange for favors such as political contributions from big developers?
- ⑨ 9. Why do you think the video emphasizes the "at risk youth" element of the story?
10. Since the developer decided (in August 2007) to build around the CYAC, is there still a problem with eminent domain?